

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 6, 2007. Claims 1 to 12 remain pending in the application, with Claims 14 to 16 having been canceled herein. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,961,616 (Wakasugi), Claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wakasugi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,603 (Motoyama), Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under § 103(a) over Motoyama in view of Wakasugi, Claim 9 was rejected under § 103(a) over Wakasugi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,603 (Chapman), and Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wakasugi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,272 (Slechta). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to fetching and outputting information input from an external apparatus. According to the invention, a first circuit waits until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from the external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, the first circuit fetches the information input from the external apparatus. Then, a second circuit determines whether or not the fetched information is the same as information fetched a previous time. If not, then the fetched information is output by the second circuit. If so, then the fetched information is not output.

Referring specifically to the claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an interface apparatus for inputting information from an external apparatus, comprising a first circuit for waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from the external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus, and a second circuit for determining whether the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as information fetched by the first circuit a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by the first circuit is not the same as the information fetched by the first circuit the previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the information fetched by the first circuit is the same as the information fetched by the first circuit the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information.

Independent Claims 5, 6 and 10 are directed to a printer, a method, and a printing method, respectively, and substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from an external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus, and

determining whether the fetched information is the same as information fetched a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is not the same as the information fetched the previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is the same as the information fetched the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information.

Wakasugi is understood to disclose that a data change detection circuit 10 inputs data of D0 to D7 and then outputs the data of D0 to D7 to a data processing unit. A sequence circuit 25 inputs a data change signal from the detection circuit 10 and a strobe change signal from a strobe change detection circuit 11 and then outputs an internal strobe signal to the data processing unit based on the input signals. The data processing unit fetches the data of D0 to D7 in response to the internal strobe signal. Wakasugi is not, however, seen to teach the features of waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from an external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus, and

determining whether the fetched information is the same as information fetched a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is not the same as the information fetched the previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is the same as the information fetched the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched

information. Thus, independent Claims 1 and 6 are not believed to be anticipated by Wakasugi.

Motoyama is not seen to disclose or suggest anything that, when combined with Wakasugi, would have resulted in the present invention. In Motoyama, a judgment is made whether a protocol identifier exists, and if so, it is judged whether an actual format of subsequent data is correct, based on format data corresponding to the relevant protocol identifier. Thus, Motoyama is not seen to disclose anything that, when combined with Wakasugi, would have resulted in the features of waiting until a predetermined time has elapsed from a time when information input from an external apparatus has changed, and after the predetermined time has elapsed from the time when the information input from the external apparatus has changed, fetching the information input from the external apparatus, and determining whether the fetched information is the same as information fetched a previous time, and in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is not the same as the information fetched the previous time, outputting the fetched information, and wherein, in accordance with a determination that the fetched information is the same as the information fetched the previous time, the second circuit does not output the fetched information. Thus, Claims 5 and 10 would not have been obvious over Wakasugi and Motoyama.

The other art of record, namely Matsumoto, Chapman, and Slechta have been studied but are not seen to make up for the deficiencies of Wakasugi and Motoyama, and any permissible combination of the references is not seen to result in the invention of independent Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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